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# TWO "DEPUTY PRESIDENTS" —

## Ike's Ideas About Improving an "Impossible Job"

The Presidency has got to be reorganized. That's Mr. Eisenhower's conclusion after nearly two terms.

Changes the President has in mind were first reported in "U. S. News & World Report" two years ago.

The aim: Free the President from "chores," give him time for big decisions. But there are roadblocks, in the Constitution and in Congress.

At a dinner meeting with business leaders earlier this year, President Eisenhower remarked that he felt that there would have to be a change made, sooner or later, in the way the White House is organized and operates.

The President said that, after his successor had been elected in November, 1960, he probably would have something to say on the White House setup, as well as on other subjects.

What the President has in mind was first revealed in the issue of "U. S. News & World Report" dated Nov. 22, 1957. This article gave the first comprehensive report on the operation of the White House, made with the co-operation of the President's staff.

**From an intimate.** One of those most intimately acquainted with President Eisenhower's views then expressed it this way:

"I think that the Presidency as it is now set up is an impossible job.

"The President is required to be Chief of State, Chief Executive, Commander in Chief of the armed forces, constitutionally responsible for foreign policy and head of a political party. He cannot get out of any one of those jobs. He cannot evade final responsibility. But that is not the difficulty.

"The difficulty is, in the first place, that the Presidency is not yet organized to make it possible for the President to attend to and make decisions on the important matters. In the second place, the President is saddled with too many chores that never should come to him.

"Herbert Hoover suggested to a congressional committee the need for something like an Executive Vice President. It

is a difficult idea, politically, of course, but the Presidency will never be workable until there is something like it. Maybe two Executive Vice Presidents, in fact.

"It may be that some day we will have to come to an Executive Vice President for domestic affairs and another Executive Vice President for defense and foreign affairs."

**Plans for action.** Those are the President's ideas, for aides who could serve as his deputies in many ways, as outlined by a close adviser more than two years ago in "U. S. News & World Report." This man, who knows the President's plans, revealed in the same article that Mr. Eisenhower, when he completes his present term, intends to write and talk



—Russell in Los Angeles "Times"  
"SOMETHING FOR BOTH PARTIES  
TO THINK ABOUT"

about the workings of the Presidency and of the changes he feels are needed to make the task more manageable.

It has been suggested that the elected Vice President have an office in the White House and serve as what amounts to an Executive Vice President.

That plan, White House officials point out, is not practicable for two reasons: One reason is that the Constitution requires that the Vice President preside over the U. S. Senate. The Vice President cannot be

the Government's No. 2 executive officer and serve as the presiding officer of a legislative body as well. The second reason is that an elected Vice President in the No. 2 executive spot would be in an ideal spot to assure his later nomination for the Presidency. Congress would never agree to that.

President Eisenhower has discovered that, whichever way he turns to make the Presidency a more workable office, he runs into trouble.

Early in his second term, the President was persuaded that it would be a good idea to create a new office in the White House to co-ordinate policy between the Department of State and the Department of Defense. He planned to call on Walter B. (Beedle) Smith—his staff chief during World War II—to fill the post. The whole plan ran into strong opposition and had to be abandoned.

**Ike's staff system.** Mr. Eisenhower has developed a staff system within the White House. This is reported to be a big improvement over the organization in pre-Eisenhower days, but it is not a formal arrangement, and the staff chief cannot speak for the President on matters of policy.

A report has just been printed that President Eisenhower will ask Congress to create a new "super" office in the White House—with rank comparable to that of Prime Minister in Great Britain or Chancellor in Germany. The only trouble with that idea is that it would require an amendment to the Constitution to bring it into effect—to be approved by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress and to be ratified by three quarters of the States.

**Little chance.** Politicians say that there is not a ghost of a chance that this change could be made in the Constitution. The President cannot delegate his constitutional duty to serve as Commander in Chief of the armed forces and under the Constitution he alone, by and with the consent of the Senate, can enter into treaties and conduct foreign relations.

What President Eisenhower has discovered is that you run up against road blocks whenever an idea is advanced to create an "Assistant President" armed with real power. In the future, as in the past, many White House officials have concluded, the office of President will be changed—if at all—by additions to the White House staff and by delegation of more administrative details to that staff.

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